

Lametasaurus

Lametasaurus (luh-MAY-tuh-SAWR-us - meaning "Lameta lizard") named for the Lameta Formation, Jabalpur, India, is the generic name given to a possible dubious dinosaur species. Originally it indicated a possible chimera composed of several different animals. They were ground dwelling carnivores.^[1]

History of discovery


Between October 1917 and 1919 Charles Alfred Matley excavated fossils near Jabalpur.^[2] In 1921 he reported the find in the "Carnosaur Bed" of what he considered to be two megalosaurians, theropod dinosaurs.^[3] In 1923/1924 he named one of these as the type species *Lametasaurus indicus*. The generic name refers to the Lameta Formation, dating from the Maastrichtian, the specific name refers to India. However, Matley no longer identified it as a theropod but as a member of the Stegosauria instead, which concept at the time also included the armoured dinosaurs today assigned to the Ankylosauria; at first Matley had seen it as a stegosaurian in the modern sense and even intended to name it as a species of *Omosaurus*.^[2] The type specimen consisted of a number of dermal scutes, a sacrum of at least five sacral vertebrae, a pelvis, a tibia and teeth.^[4] In 1933 Matley and Friedrich von Huene described some more remains collected by Barnum Brown,^[2] thought to have been part of a tail club;^[5] later this was shown to be a large osteoderm.^[2]

However, in 1935 Dhirendra Kishore Chakravarti contested the interpretation as an armoured dinosaur. He claimed that the specimen was a chimera including titanosaurid armor, crocodile teeth and theropod hindlimb material.^[6] In 1964 Alick Walker chose the scutes as the lectotype, thus removing the teeth and the bones from the type material.^[7] The name *Lametasaurus* now designated the scutes only and was generally considered to represent a member of the Nodosauridae. The pelvis and hindlimb bones have in 2003 been suggested to belong to *Rajasaurus*.^[8] In 2008 Matthew Carrano e.a. discarded the possibility the scutes were ankylosaurian, stating they were probably titanosaurian or perhaps abelisaurid, in which latter case the species would possibly not have been a chimera in the first place and be a possible senior synonym of *Indosaurus* and/or *Rajasaurus*.^[9]

The type material has been lost, lacking a known inventory number, making it difficult to test the several hypotheses. The taxon is today commonly seen as a *nomen dubium*.^[10]

Notes

- Bervoets, Fred. "Lametasaurus Indicus" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20130317175001/http://www.dinodata.info/index.php?topic=1809.0>). Dino Data. Archived from the original (<http://www.dinodata.info/index.php?topic=1809.0>) on 2013-03-17. Retrieved 2012-04-23.

<i>Lametasaurus</i>	
Temporal range: Late Cretaceous, 70 Ma	
<div> <div></div> <div>PreЄ</div> <div>Є</div> <div>O</div> <div>S</div> <div>D</div> <div>C</div> <div>P</div> <div>T</div> <div>J</div> <div>K</div> <div>PgN</div> <div></div><div></div> </div>	
Scientific classification 	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
<i>Clade</i> :	Dinosauria
<i>Clade</i> :	Saurischia
<i>Clade</i> :	Theropoda
Family:	†Abelisauridae
Subfamily:	†Carnosaurinae
Genus:	† <i>Lametasaurus</i> <div>Matley, 1923</div>
Type species	
<i>Lametasaurus indicus</i> <div>Matley, 1923</div>	

2. Carrano, M.T., J.A. Wilson, P. M. Barrett, 2010, "The history of dinosaur collecting in central India since 1828", In: Moody, R.T.J., E. Buffetaut, D. Naish, and D. M. Martill (eds.), *Dinosaurs and Other Extinct Saurians: A Historical Perspective*. Geological Society, London, Special Publications **343**: 161–173
3. Matley, C.A., 1921, "On the stratigraphy, fossils and geological relationships of the Lameta beds of Jubbulpore", *Records of the Geological Survey of India* **53**: 142–169
4. Matley, C.A., 1923, "Note on an armoured dinosaur from the Lameta beds of Jubbulpore", *Records of the Geological Survey of India*, **55**: 105-109
5. Huene, F. von, & Matley, C.A., 1933, "The Cretaceous Saurischia and Ornithischia of the central provinces of India", *Palaeontologia Indica*, **21**: 1–74
6. Chakravarti, D. K., 1935, "Is *Lametasaurus indicus* an armored dinosaur?", *American Journal of Science* **30**(5): 138-141
7. Walker, A., 1964, "Triassic reptiles from the Elgin area: *Ornithosuchus* and the origin of carnosaurs", *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London B* **248**: 53-134
8. J.A. Wilson, P.C. Sereno, S. Srivastava, D.K. Bhatt, A. Khosla and A. Sahni, 2003, "A new abelisaurid (Dinosauria, Theropoda) from the Lameta Formation (Cretaceous, Maastrichtian) of India", *Contributions from the Museum of Paleontology, University of Michigan* **31**(1): 1-42
9. M.T. Carrano and S.D. Sampson, 2008, "The phylogeny of Ceratosauria (Dinosauria: Theropoda)", *Journal of Systematic Palaeontology* **6**(2): 183-236
10. F.E. Novas, S. Chatterjee, D.K. Rudra and P.M. Datta, 2010, "*Rahiolisaurus gujaratensis*, n. gen. n. sp., a new abelisaurid theropod from the Late Cretaceous of India". In: S. Badyopadhyay (ed.), *New Aspects of Mesozoic Biodiversity*. Lecture Notes in Earth Sciences 132, pp. 45-62

External links

- [Dinosauria Translation and Pronunciation Guide \(https://web.archive.org/web/20060315213517/http://www.dinosauria.com/dml/names/dinol.htm\)](https://web.archive.org/web/20060315213517/http://www.dinosauria.com/dml/names/dinol.htm)
 - http://paleodb.org/cgi-bin/bridge.pl?a=basicTaxonInfo&taxon_no=57450
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